GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1743
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
CRUISE SHIPPING POLICY
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a Cruise Shipping Policy/Project in view of its popularity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detailed report on Cruise Shipping in India at present in comparison with rest of the world; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost Cruise Shipping in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a): A cruise shipping policy to promote tourism is on the anvil.

(b): The objectives of the proposed cruise shipping policy include making India a major cruise destination by popularizing cruise shipping, facilitating creation of requisite infrastructure and creating a conducive environment.

(c): This industry annually generates approximately US$ 14 billion worldwide and enjoys a passenger base of over 10 million, which is expected to increase two fold by 2009. India's share is only about 2%. At present, no Indian shipping line owns a luxury cruise liner.

(d): The steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost cruise shipping in the country are as under:-

(i) Cabotage has been relaxed for cruise ships for a period of 5 years from December, 2003.

(ii) Up to 50% rebate has been given in vessel related charges including berth hire, pilotage, etc.

(iii) Cruise operator M/s. Ocean Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. has been permitted to operate cruise from Goa to Lakshadweep via Cochin. Similarly Cruise Operator M/s. Star Cruises (Libra) has been permitted to operate cruises from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island) and Mumbai to Goa.

(iv) 100% FDI is allowed in Shipping Sector including Cruise Shipping.